



Philanthropy: The Power of Giving

UGS 303

Fall 2012

Professor: Pamela Paxton
Class Meetings: Tuesday and Thursday 12:30-1:30, Friday recitations
Classroom: 220 Burdine Hall
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To give away money is an easy matter in any man's power. But to decide to whom to give it, and how large and when, and for what purpose and how, is neither in every man's power nor an easy matter. Hence it is that such excellence is rare, praiseworthy and noble.
--Aristotle, *Ethics*, 360 BC

Course Description:

Who gives? Who volunteers? Does it matter? This course will cover the scope and diversity of the nonprofit sector, individual patterns of giving and volunteering, and philanthropy in comparative perspective. Further, although billions of dollars are distributed by individuals and charitable foundations each year, only some charitable programs are effective. Thus, a portion of the course will focus on providing students with the tools and skills to evaluate charitable programs for effectiveness.

Based on their own evaluations, students will have the opportunity to distribute \$100,000 (provided by an anonymous foundation) to charitable organizations. Students will be placed into groups that will research, discuss, and debate charities, with the whole class determining the ultimate distribution of the funds.

Course Materials:

Peter Singer. 2009. *The Life You Can Save*. New York: Random House. Available at University Co-op.

Other course readings available through Blackboard.

Course Requirements and Grading:

Class Participation (10%) As in all college courses, students should come to class having read and thought about the assigned readings. Regular and thoughtful contributions to classroom discussions are essential to the success of the seminar. Also, attendance matters. Make sure you sign in on the attendance sheet every day. Your attendance will be considered in your overall participation grade. Only students who have attended regularly will vote on the final distribution of the \$100,000.

Paper 1 (10%) 250 words, one page. Due: first draft on September 7, revision on September 21. Details provided in handout.

Paper 2 (10%) 500 words, two pages. October 19 first draft; November 2 revision. Details provided in handout.

Paper 3 (20%) 1250 words, five pages. November 20. Details provided in handout.

Oral Presentations (20%) individual and within debates.

University Gems (5%) Visit the Blanton Museum, the Harry Ransom Center, or some other special amenity of the University. Find out (a) what is special about it and (b) to what extent it depends on philanthropy. Write a one-page essay (250 words) summing up your results. Due December 6.

University Lecture Series (5%) Attend one of the lectures in the University Lecture Series. For Fall 2012 these are Monday, September 17 and Tuesday September 18 at 7:00 pm. See <http://www.utexas.edu/ugs/uls> You must check in with Maria at the event.

Self-evaluation (5%) 500 words, two pages. Due December 6. Details provided in handout.

Final exam (15%) December 17, 2-3:30

Grades will include + and – distinctions.

Your grade will be docked one grade per day late, for any assignment.

Outline of Course:

August 30: Introduction to the course

Readings:

No readings for today

Listen to Bill Gates' 2007 Graduation Speech at Harvard

Part 1: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AP5VIhbJwFs&feature=mfu_in_order&list=UL

Part 2: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X_YQmRD_q9Y&feature=related

Part 3: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vwdMXquKTzM&feature=mfu_in_order&list=UL

Part 4: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YzIMxltEAWk&feature=related>

Part 5: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1ZKW5Gs6z7o&feature=related>

September 4: What are the Obligations of Wealth?

Readings:

Peter Singer. 2009. *The Life You Can Save*. New York: Random House. Chapters 1-3 and 10.

Text of the giving pledge and current signatories. givingpledge.org

September 6: Introduction to the Nonprofit Sector

Readings:

Lester Salamon. 1999. *America's Nonprofit Sector: A Primer*, 2nd edition. New York: Foundation Center. Chapter 2, "What is the Nonprofit Sector and Why Do We Have It?"

Lester Salamon. 2001. "Scope and Structure: The Anatomy of America's Nonprofit Sector." Pp. 23-39 in *The Nature of the Nonprofit Sector*, edited by J. Steven Ott. Boulder, CO: Westview Press.

September 11: Giving and Volunteering in the U.S.

Readings:

Lester Salamon. 2003. *The Resilient Sector: The State of Nonprofit America*. Washington, DC: Brookings Institution Press. Chapters 3 and 4.

September 13: Choosing Where to Donate

Readings:

Paul Brest and Hal Harvey. 2008. *Money Well Spent: A Strategic Plan for Smart Philanthropy*. New York: Bloomberg Press. Chapters 1-3.

September 18: first group meeting

September 20: Visiting Speakers: panel of students from Spring 2012 philanthropy class

September 25: The Nitty Gritty on Donations

Readings:

Peter Singer. 2009. *The Life You Can Save*. New York: Random House. Chapters 4-5.

September 27: Assessment: Introduction

Readings:

Paul Brest and Hal Harvey. 2008. *Money Well Spent: A Strategic Plan for Smart Philanthropy*. New York: Bloomberg Press. Chapters 9-10.

October 2: The Scientific Method and Experimental Design

Readings:

Manzi, Jim. 2012. *Uncontrolled: The Surprising Payoff of Trial-and-Error for Business, Politics, and Society*. Introduction and chapter 2

Trochim, William M. 2006. *The Research Methods Knowledge Base*, 2nd Edition. Internet WWW page. Read these pages:

<http://www.socialresearchmethods.net/kb/destypes.php>

<http://www.socialresearchmethods.net/kb/desexper.php>

<http://www.socialresearchmethods.net/kb/expsimp.php>

<http://www.socialresearchmethods.net/kb/expequi.php>

<http://www.socialresearchmethods.net/kb/random.php>

October 4: Measuring Impact

Readings:

Joel Fleishman. 2007. *The Foundation: How Private Wealth is Changing the World*. New York: PublicAffairs. Chapter 8

Alana Conner Snibbe. 2006, Fall. "Drowning in Data" *Stanford Social Innovation Review* 39-45

October 9: Accountability and Transparency

Readings:

Helmut Anheier. 2005. *Nonprofit Organizations: Theory, Management, Policy*. London: Routledge. Chapter 10, "Stakeholders, Governance, and Accountability."

October 11: Visiting Speaker: David Onion, UT Director of Development

October 16: Visiting Speakers: UT donors

October 18: group meetings

October 23: presentations and debates

October 25: presentations and debates

October 30: The Impact of the Nonprofit Sector

Readings:

David Horton Smith. 1973. "The Impact of the Voluntary Sector on Society." In D.H. Smith, *Voluntary Action Research*. Lexington, MA: Lexington Books.

November 1: Declines in Volunteering and Other forms of Social Capital

Readings:

Robert Putnam. 2000. *Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community*. New York: Simon and Schuster. chapters 1, 3, 7, and 24

November 6: Volunteering

Readings:

John Wilson. 2000. "Volunteering." *Annual Review of Sociology* 26: 215-240

November 8: Religion and Volunteering

Readings:

Robert Putnam and David Campbell. 2010. *American Grace: How Religion Divides and Unites Us*. New York: Simon and Schuster. Chapter 13.

November 13: Foundation Guest Speaker

November 15: International Poverty

Readings:

Peter Singer. 2009. *The Life You Can Save*. New York: Random House. Chps 6 and 7

November 20: The New Battle Against Poverty

Readings:

Abhijit Banerjee and Esther Duflo. 2011. *Poor Economics: A Radical Rethinking of the Way to Fight Global Poverty*. New York: Public Affairs. Foreword and chapter 1.

November 22: Thanksgiving, no class

November 27: Final Presentation and Debates

November 29: Final Presentation and Debates

December 4: Final Decisions

December 6: Course Wrap-Up

Readings:

Peter Singer. 2009. *The Life You Can Save*. New York: Random House. Chapters 8-10.

December 17, 2-3:30 Final Exam

December 17, 4:00 Presentation of Checks to Recipients and Celebration

Helpful Resources:

GiveWell. In depth charity research, reviews, and recommendations. www.givewell.org

Giving What We Can. Charity reviews and recommendations and a giving pledge.
www.givingwhatwecan.org

Guidestar. Basic data about nonprofits, including tax Form 990. www.guidestar.org

Charity Navigator. Charity ratings with emphasis on financial health and accountability/transparency. www.charitynavigator.org

The Chronicle of Philanthropy. National weekly devoted to philanthropy. www.philanthropy.com

Independent Sector. Nonprofit advocacy and policy. www.independentsector.org

Ashoka. Supporting social entrepreneurs. www.ashoka.org

Foundation Center. Maintains a database on grantmakers and grants and does research, education, and training. www.fdncenter.org

Center on Philanthropy at Indiana University. Academic center focused on philanthropy. www.philanthropy.iupui.edu

The Life You Can Save. Website related to Peter Singer's book. www.thelifeyoucansave.com

University of Texas Honor Code:

The core values of The University of Texas at Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity, and responsibility. Each member of the university is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness, and respect toward peers and community.

Each student in this course is expected to abide by the University of Texas Honor Code.

Your work must be your own work. Plagiarism means “to steal and pass off the ideas or words of another as one’s own. To use another’s production without crediting the source” (Merriam-Webster Dictionary 2012). Do not present someone else’s writing or ideas as your own. This includes unacknowledged word-for-word use of someone else’s work, unacknowledged paraphrasing of someone else’s work, and/or unacknowledged use of another person’s ideas. If you use words or ideas from someone else, you must cite your sources. Unclear on what constitutes plagiarism? Want to know how to avoid it? See <http://www.lib.utexas.edu/services/instruction/learningmodules/plagiarism/>

Documented Disability Statement:

Any student with a documented disability who requires academic accommodations should contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at (512) 471-6259 (voice) or 1-866-329-3986 (video phone). Faculty are not required to provide accommodations without an official accommodation letter from SSD.

- Please notify me as quickly as possible if the material being presented in class is not accessible (e.g., instructional videos need captioning, course packets are not readable for proper alternative text conversion, etc.).
- Contact Services for Students with Disabilities at 471-6259 (voice) or 1-866-329-3986 (video phone) or reference SSD's website for more disability-related information:
http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/for_cstudents.php